

## Message Text

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FM USMISSION NATO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2372  
SECDEF WASHDC  
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 6954  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 USNATO 1630

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OCON, NATO, MILI  
SUBJECT: AD HO C COMMITTEE ON EQUIPMENT INTEROPERABILITY-  
MARCH 16, 1977 MEETING

SUMMARY. ON MARCH 16 THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON EQUIPMENT INTER-  
OPERABILITY (AHC) REVIEWED THE PROGRAMS OF WORK OF ITS WORKING  
GROUPS AND DISCUSSED THE PLAN FOR AND FORMAT OF ITS REPORT TO  
MINISTERS IN MAY 1977. END SUMMARY.

1. THE CHAIRMAN (DSYG PANSA) OPENED THE MEETING BY CALLING  
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THE MEMBERS' ATTENTION TO SOME KEY DATES WITH RESPECT TO THE  
AHC REPORT TO MINISTERS IN MAY. HE SUGGESTED THAT SINCE  
THE PAPER, FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE (AC/297-  
D/28), CONTAINED SUBSTANTIVE MATERIAL ON THE CURRENT WORK  
OF THE AHC, IT MIGHT PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR THE AHC REPORT  
TO MINISTERS.

2. PANSA THEN CALLED FOR A DISCUSSION OF THE REPORT OF  
WG/1 ON COMMUNICATIONS (AC/297-D/24). THERE WERE NO  
REPEAT NO OBJECTIONS TO THE PROGRAM OF WORK (ANNEX I) OR

TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE (ANNEX II) FOR THE WG/1 STUDY ON NEW TACTICAL RADIO EQUIPMENT. HOWEVER, SOME REPRESENTATIVES (NL, NO AND FRG) MADE IT CLEAR THAT IN AGREEING TO THE TOR FOR THE STUDY, THEY WANTED THE WORK EVENTUALLY TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE TRI-SERVICE GROUP ON COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS (TSG/CE), AND SUGGESTED THAT A CONVENIENT OPPORTUNITY FOR TRANSFER OF THE STUDY EFFORT WOULD COME AT THE END OF PHASE I. WG/1 WILL MEET AGAIN IN MAY AS SCHEDULED.

3. A DECISION ON THE WG/2 REPORT ON ITS FUTURE ACTIVITIES, (AC/297-D/25), WAS HELD IN ABEYANCE PENDING RECEIPT OF SOME FRG SUGGESTIONS ON THE APPROPRIATE BODIES TO CARRY OUT THE WORK OUTLINED IN THE REPORT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE FRG PROPOSAL WILL SPECIFY MORE CLEARLY THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN WG/2 AND OTHER NATO BODIES. WE WILL FORWARD THE PROPOSAL FOR WASHINGTON REVIEW AS SOON AS RECEIVED.

4. WHEN PANSA ASKED FOR COMMENTS ON THE WG/3 PROGRESS REPORT ON TANK GUN AMMUNITION, (AC/297-D/26), THE NETHERLANDS REP (BUWALDA) REQUESTED THE FLOOR TO MAKE A STATEMENT:

A. BUWALDA SAID THAT ALTHOUGH MINISTERS DECIDED THAT 105MM GUNS WERE THE NATO STANDARD CALIBER FOR THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESENT AND 120MM GUNS WOULD BE THE NATO STANDARD CALIBER OF THE FUTURE, HE WAS "DISAPPOINTED AND SHOCKED" AT THE ATTITUDE OF SOME MEMBERS OF WG/3. HE RECALLED THAT ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS IN THE PAST HE REQUESTED THAT THE CONCERNED NATIONS PROVIDE INFORMATION TO TANK-BUYING ALLIES ON THE STATUS OF TANKS AND TANK GUN MATTERS. HE WANTED TO POINT OUT ONCE MORE THAT THE ONLY INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO TANK-BUYING NATIONS WAS FROM PRESS REPORTS, NOT FROM OFFICIAL REPORTS. HOWEVER, IN READING THE REPORT OF THE LAST WG/3 MEETING, WHERE, HE SAID, OFFICIAL INFORMATION SHOULD HAVE BEEN EXCHANGED, HE DISCOVERED THAT ONE REPRESENTATIVE REFUSED EVEN TO TALK ABOUT 120MM GUNS. THIS IS A SLAP IN THE FACE TO THE AHC, HE SAID; SUCH AN ATTITUDE IS INSULTING. IT IS CLEAR TO HIM, BUWALDA WENT ON, THAT DECISIONS OF MINISTERS ARE BEING FLOUTED BY NATIONAL OFFICIALS AT LESSER LEVELS. THE AHC CANNOT TOLERATE THIS SITUATION, AND A CLEAR REPORT TO MINISTERS IS NECESSARY TO INFORM THEM WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THIS COMMITTEE. FURTHER, BUWALDA SAID THAT WG/3 SHOULD MEET BEFORE THE END OF MARCH TO RESOLVE THE CONFLICT AND PROVIDE INFORMATION WHICH THE AHC CAN USE IN ITS REPORT TO MINISTERS IN MAY. IF THE AHC DOES NOT GET CONTROL OF THE ISSUES IN WG/3, HE SAID, THE NETHERLANDS WILL NOT ACCEDE TO ANY

EXTENSIONS OF THE AHC MANDATE BEYOND MAY 1977.

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R 222007Z MAR 77  
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B. FRG REP (BOSS) SAID HE UNDERSTOOD BUWALDA'S CONCERNS AND THAT THE REFUSAL OF THE FRG MEMBER OF WG/3 TO TALK ABOUT 120 MM GUNS WAS NOT INTENDED TO BE A SLAP IN THE FACE OF THE AHC. BOSS ALSO SAID HE WOULD PROMPTLY AND FAITHFULLY EPORT WHAT BUWALDA SAID; BUT, FOR NOW, HE MUST RESERVE ON WHETHER WG/3 SHOULD MEET AND DISCUSS 120MM GUN PROBLEMS. BOSS SUGGESTED THAT WG/3 PASS ITS CURRENT WORK ON 105MM AMMUNITION TO PANEL 2 OF THE NATO ARMY ARMAMENTS GROUP.

C. US REP (STREATOR) SAID HE TOO RECOGNIZED THE NETHERLANDS  
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CONCERNS AND THANKED BUWALDA FOR BEING THE "CONSCIENCE OF THE AHC." HE SAID THAT HE WAS SURE HIS AUTHORITIES WILL WANT TO BRIEF THE AHC WHEN THERE IS SOMETHING PROFITABLE TO DISCUSS. HE REMINDED THE AHC THAT THE TOPIC OF WG/3 IS TANK GUN AMMUNITION AND THAT THE US IS DESIGNING A TANK TO ACCEPT EITHER A 105MM OR 120MM GUN: HENCE, THE US WILL BE IN APOSITION TO JOIN ANY

CONSENSUS THAT MIGHT EMERGE.

D. PANSAS ASKED LABERGE TO PROVIDE HIS PERSONAL ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN WG/3 AND OUTLINE FOR THE COMMITTEE THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE.

E. COMMENT: WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THE SUBSTANCE OF BUWALDA'S STATEMENT WAS INSTRUCTED. HIS FINAL COMMENT CONCERNING THE EXTENSION OF THE AHC MANDATE BEYOND MAY 1977 WAS SPECIFICALLY INCLUDED IN HIS INSTRUCTIONS.

END COMMENT.

5. WG/4'S REPORT (AC/297-D/27) WAS ACCEPTED WITH THE US RECOMMENDED CHANGE TO PARAGRAPH 8(3).

6. ON A NATO SYSTEM FOR COSTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STANGAGS (AC/297-D/29), THE US AND UK SUPPORTED THE CHAIRMAN'S RECOMMENDATION. THE IMS REP (MGEN LAWSON) READ A LONG STATEMENT ON WHY WG/5 WAS NOT THE APPROPRIATE BODY TO DO THE WORK AND RECOMMENDED A NEW GROUP OF FINANCIAL EXPERTS BE FORMED, HE SAID HE WOULD NOT BE QUALIFIED TO CHAIR THIS NEW GROUP. THERE WAS NO SUPPORT FOR LAWSON'S RECOMMENDATION. PANSAS ASKED LABERGE TO PROVIDE ANOTHER PAPER ON THE SUBJECT WHICH WOULD OUTLINE A METHOD TO IMPLEMENT HIS RECOMMENDATION.

7. ON THE FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE, PANSAS PICKED UP ON HIS EARLIER DISCUSSION (PARA 1 ABOVE) AND CONFIDENTIAL

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SUGGESTED THAT THE AHC USE THIS PAPER AS THE STARTING POINT FOR THE REPORT TO MINISTERS. THE CONSENSUS OF THE COMMITTEE WAS THAT THE PROGRAMS OF WORK FOR THE WORKING GROUPS (PARAS 1 THROUGH 11 OF AC/297-D/28) CLEARLY INDICATE THAT, IN ORDER TO COMPLETE ITS CURRENT WORK, THE AHC WILL NEED TO CONTINUE UNTIL THE END OF 1977. WITH REGARD TO THE REMAINING PARAGRAPHS OF THE REPORT, A NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES (BE, CA, IT, NL, UK) PREFERRED THAT THE AHC NOT TAKE UP THOSE ISSUES, BUT INSTEAD, REVERT TO A DORMANT STATUS AFTER 1977. IN THIS STATUS, THE AHC COULD THEN BE AVAILABLE TO BE CALLED UPON TO RESOLVE INTEROPERABILITY PROBLEMS, IF AND WHEN SO REQUIRED. ON THIS LAST POINT, THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE POTENTIAL FOR MUTUAL INTERFERENCE BETWEEN THE AHC AND THE CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL ARMAMENT DIRECTORS (CNAD). PANSAS SUGGESTED THAT, INSTEAD OF BELABORING THE PRESENT PAPER, A DRAFT REPORT TO MINISTERS WOULD BE PREPARED WHICH WOULD INCLUDE THE STATUS OF PRESENT WORK, PARAS 1-11 OF AC/297-D/28. (THE US-SUGGESTED REVISION OF PARA 8 WAS CIRCULATED AND WILL BE INCORPORATED IN THE DRAFT.) THE DRAFT WILL ALSO CONTAIN A PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION ON HOW THE AHC COULD

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BEST SERVE THE PURPOSES OF INTEROPERABILITY AFTER  
1977. COMMENT: IT WAS CLEAR FROM THE DISCUSSION THAT ALLIES  
HAVE ACCEPTED THE CONTINUATION OF THE AHC THROUGH DECEMBER  
1977. WE SAW NO ADVANTAGE IN JOINING THE DISCUSSION ON  
WHAT TO DO WITH THE AHC AFTER 1977. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER,  
THAT WE WILL NEED TO WATCH CLOSELY HOW THE POST-77 PRO-  
POSAL ON THE AHC IS WORDED SO AS NOT TO FORECLOSE ON  
OUR COMMITMENT TO THE COMPLETION OF CURRENT WORK. END  
COMMENT.

8. THE NEXT MEETING OF THE AHC WILL BE HELD ON APRIL  
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6, 1977.  
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